

Pre-Kindergarten Handbook for Parents

2026-2027



Calhoun County School District

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Calhoun County School District Pre-Kindergarten Parent Handbook

2026-2027

Welcome to the Calhoun County School District Pre-Kindergarten program! We are very excited to be teaching your child this year, and we hope you find this handbook useful during the year. If you have a question about something that is not covered in this handbook, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Philosophy and Goals

The early childhood years are a critical time for each child's development. The learning that takes place during the early childhood years serves as the foundation for all later academic, social, emotional, physical, and motor development. All children are capable of learning and meeting meaningful developmental milestones. Therefore, all pre-kindergarten teachers at Calhoun County School District use The Mississippi Early Learning Guidelines and Standards, which are proposed to assist all early childhood educators in their efforts to nurture the development of young children in Mississippi. This material can be viewed on the Mississippi Department of Education website at the following address: <http://www.mdek12.org>

The goals for the education of young children at Calhoun County School District are:

- All children will improve their self-concept.
- All children will increase their intellectual growth.
- All children will enlarge their understanding of the world, people, experiences, and ideas.
- All children will increase their competencies and skills in oral language, literacy, writing, listening, and thinking.
- All children will increase their competencies and skills in mathematical reasoning and scientific exploration.
- All children will increase their skills in physical coordination and gross and fine motor skills.
- All children will increase their competence in dealing with emotional feelings and social situations.
- All children will increase their self-direction and independence.
- All children will develop cooperative, trusting relationships.
- All children will develop their natural curiosity and creative potential.
- All children will develop a love of learning.

**CALHOUN COUNTY SCHOOLS
ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2026-2027**

July 6	Independence Day Holidays
July 24, 27, 28, 29	Professional Days
July 28	Open House 4:00 – 6:00
July 30	First Day for Students
Sept. 7.....	Labor Day Holiday
Oct. 5 - 9	Fall Break for Teachers
Oct. 5 - 12.....	Fall Break for Students
Oct. 12	Professional Day
Nov. 23 - 27.....	Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec. 18.....	60% Day
Dec. 21 – Jan 1	Christmas Holidays
Jan. 4.....	Professional Day
Jan. 5.....	First Day of Second Semester
Jan. 18.....	Martin Luther King Holiday
Feb. 15	Professional Day
Mar. 8 - 12	Spring Holidays
Mar. 26 - 29.....	Easter Holiday
May 21	Graduation – BHS 6:00
May 21.....	Graduation – VAC 8:00
May 22	Graduation – CCHS 7:00
May 21.....	Last Day for Students (60% day)
May 21	Last Day for Teachers (All Day)
May 31.....	Memorial Day

*Note: If days are missed due to inclement weather the make-up days will be February 15th, March 29th, and May 24th.

**All 12-month employees must work one holiday or take a personal or vacation day to fulfill their contract.

Parent Participation

Your participation in your child's school experience is necessary for him/her to reach his/her fullest potential. The communication between school and home is very important. This can be accomplished through emails, phone calls, or parent conferences. Remember to always check in at the main office and obtain a visitor's pass before going to your child's classroom. **Please be sure to keep all phone numbers current so we can reach you in case of an emergency.**

Program Options

The Calhoun County School District offers both a free half-day Pre-K program and a tuition-based full-day Pre-Kindergarten program for the 2026–2027 school year. Each program is designed to provide young learners with a strong early educational foundation. Both programs operate from August through May, with the full-day option offering an extended, structured learning environment to further support early childhood development.

Tuition for the full-day program is \$200 per month, with payments due by the 10th of each month. A 10% late fee will be applied to payments made after this date, and enrollment may be forfeited if tuition is not paid by the 20th of the month. Families may choose to pay monthly or take advantage of discounted options, including a 5% discount for annual payments made by the first day of school or a 2.5% discount for semi-annual payments made by the first day of each semester. Discount deadlines are firm.

Payments must be made directly to the school by cash, check, or bank draft. A \$50 fee will be charged for returned checks or insufficient funds. For families who choose discounted payment options, refunds are prorated only if a student withdraws within the first nine weeks; after that time, payments are nonrefundable. (Revised 05/2026)

Waitlist Procedures

Each school is assigned a limited number of Pre-K slots. Once all available slots are filled, additional students will be placed on a waitlist. If a student withdraws at any time during the school year, the vacant slot will be offered to the next student on the waitlist. Each school maintains its own waitlist and records applicants in the order that registration materials are submitted and approved. (Revised 05/2026)

Arrivals, Dismissals, and Tardiness

Absences are sent to the office by 8:00 each morning. Any child who arrives after that time should be signed in through the office prior to coming to class. Calhoun County School District understands that there may be instances occasionally when it is not possible to be here on time. However, having your child here on time allows him/her to have a smooth, relaxed start to the school day. Regular attendance without tardiness is vital to a successful school experience. When a student is absent, the parent/guardian must submit a written excuse the day the student returns to school.

Our school has a designated car rider line with a designated drop off spot for students. Please follow the flow of the line and refrain from blocking traffic. We ask that you drop your child off at the designated spot and allow him/her to walk to the room by him/herself. This encourages independence and helps to start the day calmly for your child. There are teachers on duty along the sidewalk and in the hallway to monitor children as they enter their classrooms. **Under no circumstances should a child ever be dropped off until a school official has begun the unloading process.** (Revised 05/2026)

The ½ day Pre-Kindergarten program dismisses at **12:00** each day. The full-day Pre-Kindergarten program dismisses at 2:45 each day. It is the parent's responsibility to transport their child back and forth to school. All transportation changes must be received in writing.

Daily Folders

Please check your child's folder every day for important information and return the folder the next day. If you send a note by your child, please make sure it is in the pocket of the folder securely.

If you are sending money to school, please place it in an envelope with your child's name on it, the amount, and what the money is for. If you are ordering something through a fundraiser at school, please place the order form in the envelope with the money. Place the envelope securely into the pocket of your child's folder.

Be sure to sign the behavior sheet each night. It is important to go over your child's behavior for the day with your child. Help your child plan ways to have better behavior. Talk about making good choices and reinforce the school rules.

Please make checking the folder and behavior sheet a part of your daily routine. Remove any papers, and return any forms to school.

Behavior

It is the belief of Calhoun County School District that a well-disciplined class is essential for teaching and learning to take place. In pre-kindergarten, there is a behavior chart that will be used every day. Hitting and/or fighting will not be permitted. If a child cannot be paddled, the parent will be called to pick the child up. Name-calling and making fun of others will also not be permitted and will be handled based on the severity as determined by the teacher.

Breakfast and Lunch

Pre-kindergarten students eat breakfast and lunch each day in the cafeteria. Free and reduced price meal applications are available for every student. An application will be given to every student on the first day of school. Menus will be sent home monthly in your child's folder. You may elect to send your child's meals to school, but it will need to be ready to eat (no heating/cooking required). A student cannot bring any meals into the cafeteria in packaging from outside vendors.

Restroom Procedures

Students in Pre-Kindergarten are expected to be fully potty trained in order to attend and remain in school. Occasional accidents will be handled with care and understanding; however, repeated incidents may indicate that a child is not yet fully potty trained. In such cases, the principal reserves the discretion to determine whether the student is able to continue in the program or if alternative arrangements are necessary until the student is developmentally ready to return. (Revised 05/2026)

All students must be able to use the restroom independently without any help from an adult. During the school day, the children have the opportunity to go to the restroom as needed. If your child has a condition that has been diagnosed by a doctor and needs to go more often, please let your child's teacher know. If a child has an accident at school, they will be allowed to change into the extra set of clothes they have brought. If your child has to change into their extra set of clothes, please be sure to send another set the following day. If no extra set of clothes is provided or available, a parent will be notified to pick up the child. Remember to change the extra clothes to fit the season and weather we are having at the time. Please make sure your child's clothes fit them properly so that they can get them up and down easily. Please do not send your child to school wearing a belt—these sometimes give students trouble and can lead to the student having an accident.

Recess Time

The children will go outside everyday unless it is raining or extremely hot or cold. Please keep this in mind when dressing your child.

Dress Code

Please send your child to school in comfortable clothing each day. Please be aware of any snaps, buttons, and/or zippers on your child's clothing and ensure that they can fasten and unfasten them independently. Be sure to put your child's name in coats, hats, sweaters, or anything that he/she may take off. Furthermore, please be aware of the Calhoun County School District Dress Code Policy found in the **2026-2027 CCSD Student-Parent Handbook**.

Assessments

In pre-kindergarten, assessments will be done each 9 weeks to measure students' progress. If at any time you would like to discuss your child's progress, please call the school office and schedule a time to meet with your child's teacher.

Performance Standards for Early Childhood

Performance standards with respect to services required to be provided, including health, parental involvement, nutritional, and social services, transition activities; language knowledge and skills, including oral language and listening comprehension; literacy knowledge and skills, including phonological awareness, print awareness and skills, and alphabetic knowledge; mathematics knowledge and skills; science knowledge and skills; cognitive abilities related to academic achievement and child development; approaches to learning related to child development and early learning; social and emotional development related to early learning, school success, and social problem solving; abilities in creative arts; physical development; and in the case of limited English proficient children, progress toward acquisition of the English language while making meaningful progress in attaining the knowledge, skills, abilities, and development described in clauses (i) through (ix), including progress made through the use of culturally and linguistically appropriate instructional services;

Skills to Work on Throughout the Year

- Read and talk with your child on a daily basis. Ask them specific questions about their day.
- Friendly, mannerly, social skills
- Recognizing letters and numbers
- Buttons, snaps, belts, and zippers
- Writing their name independently, holding a pencil correctly
- Being able to state their full name, birthday, address, and phone number
- Knowing the names of immediate family members
- Tying shoes
- Counting and sorting objects at home
- Measuring, pouring, stirring, etc. while cooking with an adult
- Scissor skills

Toys

Children are asked NOT to bring toys from home. They are very distracting and many are not made for large group use. Teachers and assistants cannot be responsible for broken toys or hurt feelings caused by them.

Medications and/or Allergies

Please inform your child's teacher and the school nurse if your child takes medication on a regular basis or if he/she has any type of allergies. Please be aware of Calhoun County School District's Administration of Medication guidelines found in the **2026-2027 CCSD Student-Parent Handbook**. If your child has food allergies, we must have a doctor's note on file with the school nurse as well as the cafeteria.

Sickness

Please be aware that if your child is sent home due to an illness, in some instances, a written release from the child's doctor will be required to return to school.

Head Lice

The school nurse will conduct head lice screenings during the school year. Please be aware of Calhoun County School District's Head Lice policy found in the **2026-2027 CCSD Student-Parent Handbook**.

Speech/Language Screening

During the first semester of school, the school's Speech Language Therapist will conduct an articulation and language screener to all students in pre-kindergarten. If recommendations are made for your child to be assessed further, you will be notified and will be a critical part of the entire process. If you have concerns regarding your child's speech or language skills, please contact your child's teacher or the school's speech therapist.

Parental Involvement

The school district shall be in compliance with Title I regulations requiring parental involvement in the school system's planning and implementation of the Title I compensatory education programs which affect children enrolled in the school district.

Such parental involvement shall include, but is not limited to, conferences between parents and teachers and assisting parents in home training and direct work with their children. A public meeting of the parents involved in Title I shall be held annually and shall meet federal regulations affecting parent participation. In addition, the school shall provide proper information to parents concerning their children and shall keep these parents adequately informed of their child's progress, needs, and individual objectives.

District Family and Community Engagement Policy

It is the policy of Calhoun County School District to use all appropriate means of keeping parents and community members informed about school events and programs. The district seeks to understand parental/community attitudes and aspirations. Some of the ways in which the Board of Education tries to inform the public include making its meetings and records open to the public except as provided by law where such meetings pertain to individual personnel and other classified matters. Public announcements provide opportunities for input to the five-year plan, the school district's budget, Federal Programs, and others. An annual meeting for the review and planning for Federal Programs is also publicly announced. School wide Title I projects are planned in cooperation with parents and each school develops its own involvement policy. The following components make up Calhoun County's District Family and Community Engagement Policy:

1. Purpose

CCSD will build and sustain meaningful, equitable, and collaborative partnerships among schools, families, and the community to improve student achievement and school performance.

2. Joint Development

The FACE Plan will be jointly developed and reviewed annually with parents, families, community members, school staff, and district leadership through surveys, meetings, advisory committees, and public input opportunities.

3. Distribution and Accessibility

The plan and policy will be distributed annually and made available in understandable formats and

languages. Accommodations will be provided for individuals with disabilities, limited English proficiency, and limited literacy.

4. Family Participation in District Planning

Families will be involved in the development, review, and revision of the LEA Title I Plan, CSI Plans, TSI Plans, ATSI Plans, and other applicable improvement plans.

5. Capacity Building

CCSD will provide training, resources, and/or technical assistance to families and staff regarding student learning, assessments, curriculum, effective communication, and family engagement practices.

6. Coordination and Integration

FACE activities will be coordinated with IDEA/Special Education, Career and Technical Education, Early Childhood Programs, Head Start, Title III/EL Programs, McKinney-Vento Homeless Programs, and other federal, state, and local initiatives.

7. School-Level Responsibilities

Each Title I school will annually develop and review a School-Level FACE Policy and School-Family Compact with parent input and will maintain ongoing communication with families regarding student progress, assessments, curriculum, and school activities.

8. Annual Evaluation

CCSD will conduct an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the FACE program with meaningful family participation. Evaluation activities may include surveys, focus groups, meetings, advisory committees, and stakeholder feedback.

9. Identification of Barriers

The annual evaluation will identify barriers affecting participation by families who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, have disabilities, are migratory, are homeless, or are members of racial or ethnic minority groups.

10. Family Needs Assessment

The district will annually assess family needs related to supporting student learning, communication, access to resources, and engagement opportunities.

11. Use of Evaluation Results

Evaluation results will be used to improve communication systems, strengthen school-family partnerships, revise policies and plans, allocate resources, and develop evidence-based engagement strategies.

12. LEA Planning Committee

The district will maintain a planning committee that includes parents, community members, educators, and district staff. The committee will review evaluation results, recommend improvements, participate in policy revisions, and provide ongoing guidance.

13. Reservation of Title I Funds

In accordance with ESSA requirements, the district will reserve required Title I funds for family engagement activities when applicable and will involve families in decisions regarding the use of those funds.

14. Public Input Opportunities

Families and community members will be provided opportunities to give input on the FACE Policy, FACE Plan, LEA Plan, use of Title I funds, school improvement efforts, and annual evaluation findings through meetings, surveys, public comment periods, and electronic feedback.

15. Communication

The district and schools will maintain meaningful two-way communication with families through conferences, phone calls, emails, websites, social media, parent meetings, newsletters, and other appropriate methods.

Aligned to MSBA Policy LAA: Title I Family and Community Engagement (FACE) and ESSA Requirements

Available communications media are used to further inform the public of the programs, problems, planning, and activities of the school district. Alternate means of communication are provided, if needed, for parents for whom English is

a second language. A grievance procedure has been established for public complaints. Written complaints are kept on file in the district office. Parents review the Parent Involvement Policy each year and suggest changes or revisions. However, you may contact Emily Snellings at 662.412.3152 at any time to suggest changes or revisions. Parents are welcome and are encouraged to volunteer. Contact the principal to find out how you can help.

Homeless Students

Under the requirements of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Calhoun County School District will work to ensure that homeless children have a full opportunity to enroll in our preschool programs. Please contact the district's Homeless Liaison, Emily Snellings, at 662.412.3152 for further information.

English Learners (ELs)

The mission of the Calhoun County School District (CCSD) is to meet the needs of all students by providing challenging learning experiences in a collaborative, concerned community committed to producing life-long learners. In compliance with ESSA, the CCSD has established a plan that addresses not only the English proficiency and academic education of the EL students but also, the emotional, physical, psychological, and cultural aspects of a student's adjustment in a new culture. Students identified as EL as defined by the law shall receive English Language tutoring services. Students cannot be identified as EL until Kindergarten. If identified as EL, service for students is determined individually based on the Home Language Survey, completed at the time of student enrollment and the research-based English Language Proficiency Test, as mandated by the Mississippi Department of Education. For more information, contact Emily Snellings at 662.412.3152.

Coordination with Early Childhood Providers

Calhoun County School District will work to increase coordination with Calhoun County's early childhood providers. Coordination activities may include: developing and implementing sharing procedures (with parental consent), establishing channels of communication between school staff and their counterparts, conducting meetings between parents and teachers to discuss the needs of individual students, joint, student transition-related training, of staff training, and linking educational services provided.

Important Contact Information

Central Office—(662)412-3152

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